49. Desirability of Government giving up their right over royal trees standing on private lands.

Mr Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) said that, as full tax was realized by Government for all property in the enjoyment of ryots, the latter should be left to derive the full benefit of all the trees standing on their holdings. The land-owners were thus entitled to get the whole value of royal trees but they would consider it a relief even if half their value were given to them, the remaining half alone being taken by the Sirkar. Teak trees were very often destroyed by proprietors and this resulted in loss both to them and the Government but, if the concession prayed for could be granted, the ryots themselves would in many cases undertake to maintain teak plantations for the Government.

Mr. Kumara Menon (T. I. C., Kottayam) and Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and *Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (Shencottah)* also spoke in support.

Reply.—The rights over royal trees growing on private lands are vested in Government. Three-fourths of the value of these trees are now recovered by Government and one-fourth allowed to the land-owner. Teak is a royalty and cannot be grown by the proprietor. The one-fourth that is now given to the ryot is deemed sufficient compensation for his interest in the land.

50. Deduction on account of rocks, &c., in the registry of cherikal lands.

Mr. Dominic Thomman (Agricultural Association, Changanachery) represented that in the assessment of cherikal lands due reduction should be made when rocks and other uncultivable portions are found to exist.

Reply.—This suggestion will also be considered in connection with cherikal settlement.

51. Restoration of lanes and irrigation channels by the owners of adjacent compounds and paddy fields.

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Kunnattur) invited the attention of Government to the necessity of directing the owners of wet and garden lands to maintain all adjoining irrigation channels and pathways in their original condition and submitted that the matter received little attention from revenue officers at present.

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